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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 36 | Min 20 | Humidity 31% Clear with periodic clouds Sensex 59,727 | Nifty 17,660 | Gold 60,560 | Silver 75,322 | Dollar 82.08 | Euro 89.93 | GBP 101.93

In January, Bengaluru recorded 7 rape cases which increased to 16 cases in February, as per latest crime review data

BENGALURU, VIOLATED

Safe city project launched at a cost of Rs 600 cr to ensure women's safety

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru saw a 128% increase in rape cases over a month. According to the latest crime review data from the Karnataka state police, in January 2023, Bengaluru recorded seven rape cases which increased to 16 cases in February 2023.

Meanwhile, the state witnessed an increase of 86% in rape cases from January to February. Karnataka recorded 30 rape cases in January which increased to 56 in February 2023. Amongst the 56 cases, 28% were from Bengaluru alone.

In February 2022, there were 36 rape cases registered in the state which saw a massive increase in 2023.

Recently, the first phase of the safe city project was launched to ensure women's safety in the city. The project is implemented at a cost of more than Rs 600 crore, which includes setting up of cameras in strategic locations.

"Cameras cannot prevent a crime; they can surely be used for investigation after the crime has

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

"The govt's unwillingness to do something concrete... is the main reason why cases increase. Culprits are aware, even if they commit heinous crimes like rape, they will get bail — KS Vimala, women's rights activist

Waiting for the road

HC passed order to asphalt road, provide water supply, sanitation along 2nd Cross Chikkathayappa Reddy Layout

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It seems neither the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) nor the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) authorities are bothered to provide a basic amenity – an asphalted road – for the residents along 2nd Cross, Chikkathayappa Reddy Layout. After running pillar to post, the residents, with no other option, had approached Karnataka High Court seeking justice. The length of the road is 150 m and the width 30 ft.

The residents filed a writ petition in the High Court seeking a direction to the BBMP chief commissioner and Babusapalya ward assistant engineer to consider their representation dated September 22, 2022 to asphalt the road where they reside. The High Court passed an order on March 24, 2023, directing the authorities concerned to complete the works of asphalting the roads, and to provide water supply and sanitation service at the earliest.

Trivikram, a senior advocate, who was the counsel for the petitioners Sreekumar K,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Love for jazz

Banyan Tree's World Jazz Festival is back. The festival will feature an extraordinary line-up of eminent jazz musicians from the Netherlands, USA, Brazil, Serbia and South Korea. The performers will also collaborate with some Indian musicians at this concert.
Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall
When: April 28, 6:30pm onwards
Tickets: bookmyshow.com

02 Music Jams

Every Wednesday, jam at Lahe Lahe with your voices and your musical instruments. You are also welcome if you just want to hear music.
Where: Lahe Lahe; When: 19th April, 7:30-9:30 pm

03 Clay stories

Patting, pulling, pushing and poking.... working with clay can be fun! But have you listened to your lump of clay? Join storyteller Priya Muthukumar of Storipur to listen to some interesting tales hiding inside a ball of clay and who knows, you may create your own clay-story! This is a storytelling session which would be followed by a simple clay activity for the participants. Handpicked stories about clay & creativity from around the world will be narrated.

Where: Atta Galatta; When: April 21, 4 pm
Contact: 9886741843

This season, go watch the birds

Workshop being organised for kids to help them fall in love with birding

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Birdwatching is fast emerging as a popular hobby among Indians. However, birdwatchers often tend to get stuck just on ticking bird names off their lists. In an effort to make birdwatching a more wholesome experience, and to help people derive deeper meaning from the exercise, a new workshop is being organised just for the kids to learn more about the birds during their summer holidays.

The Young Birders Workshop is being hosted by Early Bird which is a not-for-profit initiative that focuses on helping kids expand their interest in birds, moving beyond just bird identification. It is a part of the Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF), a 25-year-old public charitable trust set up to contribute to the knowledge and conservation of India's unique wildlife heritage.

The workshop will be hosted in the month of May, for children between 10-13 years of age. It will be an intensive four-week online interaction, where it will encourage children to go and explore birds in their own neighbourhood through a combination of activities, videos and online classes.

Members from Early Bird said, "Our aim is to help children delve deeper into the world of birds, and start observing the other organisms that they share their spaces with. Since the workshop is designed in an online format, we hope to reach young birders from all over the country. The workshop will be in the form of an intensive four-week engagement tailored specifically for young birdwatchers between the age of 10-13 years."

In the workshop, participants will explore different themes related to birds, each week focussing on a new theme. They will be engaged with a combination of multimedia, guided interactions, lively discussions and activities via online sessions. The themes are designed to facilitate deep observations about birds, and the linked activities will help the participants to independently explore green spaces around their homes -- an excellent learning experience during their summer holidays.

The workshop aims at helping children delve deeper into world of birds and observe the organisms they share spaces with

Rupinder Kaur, a parent of a participant who participated in the Young Birders Workshop in 2021 said, "My daughter woke up early mornings on her own; was keen to go down (even if the rest of us slept in) for walks and journal her observations. The notes she made were her own and not taken from the internet. Even though the sessions were on Sunday mornings she never once wanted to miss it. Was truly refreshing to see initiative and interest from her without us having to prod even once – all this was very different from how school work happens."

The weekly live sessions will be facilitated online on consecutive weekends, each accompanied by an illustrated activity sheet that not only recaps the learnings about the chosen theme, but also shares new activities the participants can pursue on their own.

The workshop will give participants the opportunity to really get to know the environment around their own homes, that which they have always lived with but, perhaps never quite noticed.

Business like good ol' times

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As per the latest statistics shared by the Centre, the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru continued to be the third busiest airport in the country. In the financial year 2022-23, Delhi had handled 6.55 crore passengers, Mumbai 4.33 crore while Bengaluru handled 3.19 crore.

During a recent reply in Rajya Sabha, Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation Gen VK Singh said, "Like many other airports, Bengaluru airport is also reaching pre-Covid level in terms of passenger traffic. In 2019-20, Bengaluru had handled 3.23 crore which dipped to 1.09 crore in 2020-21 but slightly picked up to 1.62 crore in 2021-22 and since then, bounced back to nearly pre-Covid levels." As per the statistics, Bengaluru is followed by Hyderabad (2.11 crore), Chennai (1.86 crore), Kolkata (1.78 crore) and Ahmedabad (1.01 crore).

Karnataka's second busiest airport Mangaluru is at rank 29 in the country in terms of airport passengers. Mangaluru airport has handled 18.13 lakh during this financial year and is also close to pre-Covid traffic. After Mangaluru, the next busiest airports are Hubballi (ranked 59th) and Belagavi (60th rank) have handled 3.21 lakh and 2.98 lakh passengers respectively. Mysuru is at the 67th spot where the heritage city had 1.87 lakh passengers using the facility. Kalaburagi (78,735 passengers) is at 78th and Bidar (8,105 passengers) at 110th position.

Interestingly, HAL airport which had stopped commercial operations since the opening of Kempegowda International Airport, has been placed at 107th position where 9,947 passengers have used the facility in a financial year.

Meanwhile, Singh said that Bidar, Mysuru, Vidyanagar, Hubballi, Kalaburgi, Belagavi, Shivamogga, Karwar and Vijayapura, have been identified in Karnataka for the operation of UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) flights.

Presently, any commercial airline can start flight operations on the non-exclusivity routes, as per their commercial viability. In future rounds of bidding, if any airline bids for connecting these airports in Karnataka to other domestic destinations in the country, the same shall be considered for the award as per the provisions of UDAN scheme document, Singh said in the Rajya Sabha.

IT IS GOING TO BE A LONG AND HOT SUMMER

But, this area is already parched

Cauvery water supply is drying up, say OMBR Layout residents, BWSSB denies disruption

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Banaswadi residents are reporting a shortage in Cauvery water supply, which began two months ago and has left them helpless. Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) officials, however, claim that there is no problem at all in the supply.

But residents of OMBR Layout that BM spoke to, said that water supply has been hit by 50 per cent at least. A resident Jose Thomas told BM, "Cauvery water is supposed to come on specific days, but it has become erratic. When it does come, it's insufficient for a family of four-five members. At some places, where the houses are on a slope, the water supply is lower. Luckily, we have a borewell and are managing with rainwater recharge."

But not all residents are as lucky as Thomas. Most residents are now calling water tankers at least once a week. While the issue of low Cauvery water supply has persisted over the years, residents say that this summer it has gotten worse. With this being just early summer, residents are anxious about the situation during the peak of summer.

Prof PV Ramachandran told BM that for the past six-nine months, they are facing issues with the water supply. "I hardly have about 50-60 litres of water and we have three tenants. We are getting a water tanker once every three days and I am also depending on borewell water. Due to this, electricity bills are shooting up. We have made several complaints to the authorities. Officials are saying that water supply is going to low-lying areas and our house is at a higher slope."

BWSSB officials say there is no disruption in the water supply and pipeline repairs are done promptly

> **"The water meters were changed and now we are facing issues. For the past 12 years, we never had to get a tanker. The water sump became empty for the first time** –Sathya, resident of the area

Ramachandran who has a degree in mechanical engineering said, "When there is a low-lying area, there should be a regulatory valve to release water for higher areas. Closing it partially and fully can help increase pressure and release water to higher areas."

Residents say that recently, there was a block in the pipeline that was cleared to release water.

Another resident, Sathya, said that the issue began in February.

"The water meters were changed and now we are facing issues. For the past 12 years, we never had to hire a water tanker. The water sump became empty for the first time. For a family of four, we need at least 28-30,000 litres in a month but today I have received just 2,000 of the daily requirement of 4,000 litres. BESCOM workers dug up for some civil work and damaged the pipelines and we started getting muddy water. I don't have a borewell and so it is turning into a hassle for me."

However, BWSSB officials say that there are no water supply issues from their side. "There is no issue from our end and we are supplying as per schedule. Any damages in the pipeline are being rectified and water is being released. In OMBR Layout, there was a similar issue and we have cleared it. One part of the OMBR Layout gets Cauvery water on Monday evening and another on Tuesday evening. We are supplying water for 4-5 hours each day and in the morning for 3.5 hours," said a senior BWSSB official.

...And there are sparks on the tracks

Metro services disrupted for around 20 mins due to sparks on rails

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As the city is experiencing intense heat, an incident of sparks being spotted on insulation pads beneath the metro rails has come to light. On Monday, the incident took place at the Vivekananda Metro station on the purple line around 11 am, disrupting metro services for 20 minutes. The driver on the line who noticed the spark immediately stopped the train as a precautionary measure and informed the station officials who then doused the spark.

A Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) official said that the spark which emanated at the insulation pads caused smoke and also slight burning of the pads. The spark was caused due to intense heat. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted the likelihood of a heatwave as summers are peaking early while also saying that the maximum temperature in Bengaluru is likely to rise by three to four degrees.

"This was controlled by switching off the power supply and by using a fire extinguisher. It was subsequently doused off by water," he said and added that as a precautionary measure all pads around this site of spark have been replaced. The official advised that commuters who spot such a spark or any unusual sight must inform the metro railway official and security staff at the stations.

While the services were resumed as soon as the situation was resolved, the disruption of 20 minutes caused inconvenience to passengers travelling through the Vivekananda Metro station.

Frazer Town requests change of mela venue

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Residents of Frazer Town voiced their grievances regarding the conduct of the Ramadan Food Mela by vendors in their locality and have reached out to the Pulikeshi Nagar Police Station to file a complaint. They are now also sending letters to different government departments to intervene and stop the food mela.

The residents pointed out that while they appreciate the efforts of the government and the corporation to promote cultural and social activities in the city, the unregulated operation of food stalls during the event has become a nuisance to the residents of the area.

They said that the food mela, that is organised every year, despite objections, has nothing to do with the holy month of Ramadan and is not a cultural or religious event. They said during the event, citizens are indulging in various offences such as footpath and road encroachment, smoke and noise pollution, public nuisance, operating throughout the night, blocking the way to the religious place, and electricity theft from electric poles.

The residents have requested the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to take necessary action against the offenders as per the law, including but not limited to the Indian Penal Code and the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act. Saud Dastagir, a resident of the area, said, "The vendors are often seen using open flame stoves, generating smoke, and causing noise pollution beyond the permissible limits. This violates the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, and the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000. Furthermore, the event is blocking roads and causing traffic congestion. Apart from this, the vendors are creating waste management issues."

When the residents went and complained to the Pulikeshi Nagar Police Station, the police officials were supportive. In a statement to the residents, the police officer pointed out that the police officials had written to the BBMP, stating about footpath encroachment problems. He added that the police cannot take any action by themselves until BBMP comes forward.

The residents in their letter to BBMP stated that they want the Ramadan Food Mela to be conducted either in a manner that is compliant with the law, and respects the rights of the residents and devotees or be stopped altogether. "If the food mela or any other similar event is to be conducted, we suggest that it should be conducted at any of the corporation grounds under proper vigilance, away from residential areas, and with adequate measures to ensure compliance with the law," added one of the complainants.

Little paw-se for polls

BBMP's dog census exercise will have to wait until May 10

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Once assembly elections are over on May 10, BBMP will form teams/start census work; in the meantime, they are working on the modalities and ensuring that everything is in place by the first week of May

With the assembly elections just around the corner, the onset of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) dog census exercise will have to wait until May 10. According to the officials from the Animal Husbandry department, the process will now begin only after the elections are over as most of the officials are busy with election duties.

"Currently, most of the BBMP officials are busy with election work. Once elections are over on May 10, we will form teams and start the process. In the meantime, we are working on the modalities and ensuring that everything is in place by the first week of May to avoid any further delay. Soon after May 10, we will fix up a date and start the census," said BBMP special commissioner (health) Dr KV Trilok Chandra.

Being taken up after a gap of nearly five years, the census result is expected to be useful in analysing the efficacy of the ongoing ABC/ARV program by the Palike. The last dog census of Bengaluru was conducted in 2018 and recorded 3.09 lakh stray dogs. Before that, 1.85 lakh dogs were recorded in the 2012 census and 1.83 lakh in the 2007 census.

Officials also confirmed that drone technology will indeed be used to assist the process. Bangalore Mirror had earlier reported that BBMP is contemplating using drones to aid the upcoming dog census in the city.

"We have decided to use drones to carry out a part of the census as it will help cover a larger area in a short period and will give a better understanding of the stray population. The Palike is designing a hybrid model, keeping in mind the limitations of drone technology, which will be used more as collaborative evidence to the physical survey. We are in talks with drone service providers and some firms are meeting us soon to demonstrate their services," informed Dr Chandra.

> **"It will be a snapshot survey with sight-resight methodology. This is being done in order to ensure that maximum dogs are covered**
>
> – Animal Husbandry dept official

Under the process, all BBMP zones will be covered by a hundred teams of officials, which will be joined by volunteers, NGO representatives, and animal lovers. Sight-resight survey method will be used to estimate the population size of free-roaming dogs after an orientation session for the volunteers to ensure that all the teams and members are on the same page.

"It will be a snapshot survey with sight-resight methodology. Two days will be for sighting the dogs, whereby the teams will record the dog characteristics and location on a standardised data sheet. Over the next two days, the same teams will retrace the track to ensure all dogs have been sighted. We do the entire exercise twice to ensure that the numbers are correct. To ensure that maximum dogs are covered, we are going ahead with the sight resight methodology," informed an official from the Animal Husbandry department.

Past in need of preservation

State Archeology Department urged to protect more heritage buildings in Bengaluru

While Bengaluru's landscape is changing, activists in the city are demanding that the traditional and heritage buildings in the city should be restored. Traditional buildings in Bengaluru have retained their charm and are being recognised for their historical and artistic significance. The State Archaeology Department is responsible for protecting and preserving such heritage buildings and monuments that are at least 100 years old.

The Basaveshwara Temple (Doddaganapati), Bowring Institute, Gangadhareshwara Temple, Kempegowda's time towers, inscriptions, and Venkataramanaswamy are some of the heritage buildings that are already protected by the State Archaeology Department. However, there are many more buildings like the Krishna Rao House in Basavanagudi, Manikyavelu Mansion, Government Law College, Victoria Hospital, and some houses in Malleswaram that should also be protected. It is important to note that any ancient monument should be submitted to the state government and approved for protection. INTACH has already provided a list of 43 buildings in the city that should be added to the list of protected monuments.

"It is also concerning to know that Tipu's Armoury, a protected monument under the purview of the Archaeology Department, became unprotected a year ago. Therefore, it is crucial for the archaeology department to take necessary action to protect and preserve these ancient monuments and buildings," said an activist.

According to the State Archaeology Department, up to 100 m of the monument should be a restricted area, and up to 200 m should be a protected area. This will help prevent any unauthorised construction or damage to the surrounding areas of an ancient monument. A Devaraju, Commissioner, Department of Archaeology, said, "Ancient monuments refer to any building, monument, burial mound, monolith, inscription of historical, archaeological, or artistic merit existing for at least 100 years. Details of such buildings need to be submitted to the state government for approval. Once approved, the monument will be a restricted area of up to 100 m, and up to 200 m will be a protected area."

File photo of the Bowring Institute; INTACH has provided a list of 43 buildings that should be added to list of protected monuments

whatsapp MIRROR 9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

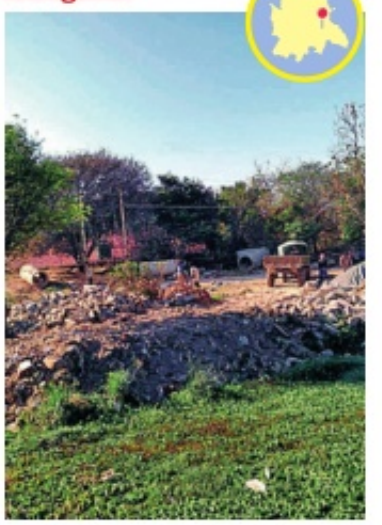
Illegal!

Rajajinagar

These encroachments are violating BBMP guidelines in 9th Main, 4th Block, Rajajinagar. No action is being taken.

Lake under threat

Kithiganur



Construction materials are being dumped in Kithiganur Lake regularly and the water body is dying.

Roadblock

Old Airport Road

There is a traffic console lying next to Airforce Hospital on Old Airport Road for over two years, blocking the footpath.

Beware, vehicle thieves are lurking near you!

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The city in January this year recorded 882 motor vehicle thefts. According to the data by the Karnataka state police, Bengaluru recorded 452 and 430 cases of vehicle thefts in January and February 2023, respectively.

According to the data, the state also recorded 1,759 cases of vehicle theft in the first two months.

There were 857 cases recorded in February and 902 cases recorded in January. The data shows that two-wheeler theft has the maximum number of cases in the motor vehicle theft lot. Out of the 1, 759 cases of vehicle theft, 1622 of them for two-wheeler vehicles.

Rahul A, a techie, who lives in a PG near Rama temple Ejipura, had his bike stolen two months back. "My bike was parked in the parking lot of the PG and I was not in town, later when I came back, I saw that my bike was not there. The bike cost Rs 2.5 lakh so I panicked and immediately approached the police. Even after checking the CCTV footage and enquiring staff from the PG, the police couldn't find my bike," he said.

The Karnataka police has created an online FIR filing system for vehicle theft as well, which works by linking the Vahaan database for car registration and Aadhar system for electronic signature. The step was taken to ensure that people do not have to visit the police station to file a report.

In January this year, 882 vehicles were reported stolen

But residents claim that even after filing a report the police do not take their cases seriously. Saurabh, a doctor, had filed a theft complaint for his car in February; he claims that despite having all the CCTV footage, the police do not take his case seriously.

"I used to go to the station every week to find out if my vehicle was found. But they didn't take me seriously and the police would ask me to come after 15 days, but even now there is no update on the theft case," he said.

According to the police data, 25 trucks, 38 cars, 55 three-wheelers, 15 tractors and 3 buses have been stolen in the state this year.

For foot overbridge, it's a waiting game

Four years on, foot overbridge project yet to take off; BMRCL says IISc yet to give permission

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Back in 2019, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) proposed to build a one-kilometre foot overbridge (FOB) connecting the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) to the Sandal Soap Factory Metro Station.

According to the bridge alignment map, it would also connect the bus terminal at Yeswanthpur with ramps sloping at Triveni Main Road and MS Ramaiah Road. The idea was to fill the gaps in last-mile connectivity and promote public transport. However, the project has not taken off, four years on.

According to BMRCL authorities, they are still awaiting permission from IISc to conduct preliminary soil tests on campus, required to chalk out further modalities.

"We have reached out to IISc multiple times requesting them to allow us to take a few soil samples for the project. However, we have not received the permission yet," said a senior BMRCL official.

The FOB was planned to ensure a safe commute for students while safeguarding intermodal connectivity between Yeswanthpur Railway Station and the bus stop.

"The sections of the road identified for the FOB have traffic issues. It was expected to provide a safe route for the students to reach the campus. Moreover, the soap factory area is being developed and the project would have provided a much-needed respite from the expected surge in traffic in the area. However, the institute has not been proactive and has not responded to our request after multiple reminders," said the official.

The foot overbridge would have solved last-mile connectivity and eased traffic congestion

Sources from IISc claim the institute's administration is stonewalling the project to facilitate the proposed flyover in association with BBMP on Gokula Road near Mathikere turn. The flyover, as per BBMP's recent budget document, will be constructed at a total cost of Rs 40 crore on land offered by IISc.

The foot overbridge was planned to ensure a safe commute for students while safeguarding intermodal connectivity between Yeswanthpur Railway Station and the bus stop

The source also informed BM that the request for the FOB came from the then IISc administration to improve metro connectivity to the institute.

"As part of a short-term connectivity solution, it was proposed that BMRCL would construct a skywalk from the Sandal Soap Factory Metro Station to the IISc campus with multiple landings. It becomes a wonderful first and last-mile connectivity solution not just to reach the metro station but also to nearby railway and bus stations. Moreover, the alignment of FOB is planned in such a way that it involves no tree cutting except trimming of some branches," informed the source.

Sources allege that although the IISc community is in favour of the FOB, which is in line with the sustainable transport agenda, the administration has stopped cooperating with BMRCL.

"It is ironic that a flyover project, which will kill last-mile pedestrian connectivity is being given priority. When BMRCL consultants approached IISc seeking permission to collect soil samples for geotechnical investigation. However, the institute has not allowed them so far. This is because the FOB will come in conflict with the proposed flyover," said another source.

Attacked for breaking queue

A couple was assaulted for allegedly breaking the queue at a hospital in Yelahanka.

The couple took their child to the hospital as the child was suffering from fever. The couple ignored the line and it triggered those waiting and they had a verbal confrontation. Later the fight escalated and two people attacked the couple.

The couple who was assaulted have been identified as Raghavendra and Sudha. The accused have been identified as Ashwin and Dilip. A case has been registered in Yelahanka police station.

Woman arrested for abducting baby

A woman in her early 30s was arrested by the police in the recent child abduction case in Vani Vilas Hospital.

According to the police, the child has also been rescued and the police have handed over the child to the mother. "The accused used to work in the market area around the hospital and she wanted a child for a long time, so she decided to abduct it. The woman was caught early morning on April 18," said the police.

BWSSB blamed after boy drowns

A two-and-a-half-year old boy drowned after falling into a water-filled pit dug up by the BWSSB at Doddagollarahatti off Magadi Road. The boy has been identified as Karthik, a resident of Pipeline Road. BWSSB had dug a pit for work and Karthik accidentally fell into it as he was playing.

An FIR has been registered in Byadarahalli Police Station against BWSSB engineer and contractor. The father, Hanuman, is blaming BWSSB for the child's death. In his police statement, Hanuman mentioned that a month prior, BWSSB had dug a pit in front of his house for pipeline maintenance. The man alleged that BWSSB hadn't taken preventive measures like constructing a barricade to ensure safety.

'128% rise in rape cases'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

occurred. They can't prevent violence against women on streets. The government's unwillingness to actually do something concrete to reduce rape cases is the main reason why these cases increase. The culprits are aware that even if they commit heinous crimes like rape, they will get bail," women's rights activist, KS Vimala, told BM.

She also noted that the government has not been able to use funds efficiently to curb crimes and that is one of the main reasons that the state is seeing an increase in crime against women from the past three years.

"The central government provided funds to the state government under the Nirbhaya scheme, to create awareness, hold workshops and so on, but I have never seen these initiatives on the ground. Even patrolling is not happening. When something big like the recent Koramangala gang rape case happens, you can see police personnel near parks; but after some days or weeks you can't see them on the streets at night. Likewise, after a project such as the pink taxis is launched, it's functional for a few days only. After a while these are nowhere to be found," she added.

Poorna, a lawyer working at the Alternative Law Forum, said crime against women can't be addressed by solely doing things like installing cameras but rather it is a systemic issue which has to be nipped at the root.

"The state has to take comprehensive measures to approach vicious structures of patriarchy and exploitation. Factually it is important to have cameras or special booths, but if we are not going to look at the root cause of the problem, then crimes against women will continue to increase.

The government should work with civil society groups and the groups that work with women; their input and collaboration will help to address the issue," she said.

Five years on, road not laid

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ravi Kumar, and Arun Fernandes, the residents on 2nd Cross of Chikkathayappa Reddy Layout, said roads and basic infrastructure are rights of every citizen and the welfare state must provide it to everyone here.

"I feel sad to see people approaching the High Court seeking direction to asphalt the road even after 75 years of Independence. Our legislators must concentrate on basic facilities rather than visiting voters during election time," said Trivikram.

Sreekumar, a resident and advocate, expressed concern over the delay in implementing the High Court order.

He said the BBMP is yet to begin asphalting the road: "I complained to all including the BBMP and elected representatives about the need of asphalting the road which was in a poor condition but nothing was done all these years," said Sreekumar.

Arun Fernandes, one of the petitioners, said the authorities had asphalted all the roads but not taken measures to asphalt this road.

"There is a school for autistic children. It is painful to see autistic children struggling to walk on this road during the monsoon. I want the BBMP to asphalt this road without any delay," said petitioner Ravi Kumar.

Kumar said that he shifted residence to another locality recently: "I do not understand why the authorities failed to asphalt the road for the last five years. Asphalting the road would be a great help for the residents and school children."

Bangalore Mirror reported the indiscriminate digging of roads at the layout on February 22, 2022 in the story – Roadblocks to mobility - narrating how the residents were facing problems walking on this road.

Will not implement decision to scrap 4% Muslim quota till next week: Govt to SC

The Karnataka government on Tuesday assured the Supreme Court that for a week further, it would not implement its decision to scrap the 4 per cent Muslim quota in the OBC category in jobs and education. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the State government, contended before a bench of Justices KM Joseph and BV Nagarathna that the state government would require more time to file its affidavit in the matter. Last week, the state government had sought time till Monday to file its response. After hearing Mehta's submissions, the top court deferred the hearing till April 25.

The apex court had made some strong observations against the manner in which the government scrapped the OBC quota for Muslims and placed them under the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category, saying the foundation of the decision-making process is "highly shaky and flawed". –IANS

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I Mithun Mungayuduthemuzi Mukundnan S/O, M R Mukundan R/o N0 68, 3rd Cross, Jp Nagar 8th Phase 1st A Block, Banglore - 560076 have changed my name to Mithun Mungayuduthemuzi Mukundan for all purposes.

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Bits and pieces left to linger

Irregular pick-up of dry waste from door-to-door irks residents of Rajarajeshwari Nagar; they demand immediate action

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of Rajarajeshwari Nagar ward are facing problems in disposing of dry waste as the collection of dry waste from door-to-door has become irregular. They said the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities have not taken measures to assign a contractor to collect the dry waste from their doorsteps.

With no dry waste collection in place, some irresponsible citizens are dumping dry waste on the roadside and vacant places in the area.

"I am not happy with the waste management in the area. One can find dry waste dumped at vacant places and roadside. I demand the BBMP authorities to take measures to clear the black spots and ensure dry waste collection on a regular basis," said Shobha Bhat, a resident of the area.

Other residents added that the BBMP authorities have taken measures to collect wet waste from door-to-door on a regular basis; however, the problem is with the collection of dry waste.

Malini, another resident, told Bangalore Mirror that the BBMP authorities have failed to make arrangements for the collection of waste.

"I am of the opinion that dry waste collection is not happening on a regular basis. I have come across residents complaining on the WhatsApp group about dumping of dry waste at vacant places in the area. I want the BBMP authorities to take measures to collect dry waste from door-to-door without any delay," said Datta Saraf, another resident.

Dry waste dumped on the roadside at RR Nagar ward

"I am not happy with the waste management in the area. I demand the BBMP authorities to take measures to clear the black spots – Shobha Bhat

Moreover, residents said that people engaged in collecting dry waste have no patience until all the residents hand over their dry waste to them.

"Most of the buildings have two or three floors. It takes some time for the tenants on the third floor to come down and hand over the waste. Since the workers do not wait for the residents on the third or fourth floor to come down, the residents have no option but to dump the dry waste on the road," a resident informed anonymously.

Reportedly, there are around 20 black spots in Rajarajeshwari Nagar ward. The number may increase if the BBMP authorities fail to ensure all types of waste are collected from the doorsteps.

Meanwhile, RR Nagar Superintending Engineer Nandeesh told BM that the collection of dry waste has been given to a women self-help group. "They told me that they have some problems with three vehicles. It is said that they have purchased new vehicles to collect dry waste from door-to-door. The problem of dry waste collection will be solved within a week," he added.

Herbal treatment: Cause for Hakki-Pikkis to travel to Sudan?

As 31 people belonging to the Hakki-Pikki community from Karnataka are stranded in Sudan where a civil war has broken out, many people have been scratching their heads on how the poverty-stricken tribals travelled such a long distance and landed in the African nation.

In Sudan, rival factions of the ruling military regime have been battling for control of the country.

It turns out there is a great demand for low-cost traditional medicines because the people of Sudan are unable to afford 'English medicines', an official said.

"Modern medical treatment is either unavailable to them or is way beyond the reach of the majority of citizens of Sudan. The people were looking for an alternative medicine which is effective and cheap. That is when the Hakki-Pikki tribes found an opportunity and reached there," the state government officer told PTI.

Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority Commissioner Manoj Rajan said, "We have got a message that a group of 31 people hailing from Karnataka are stranded in Sudan. We have informed the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) about it."

The officer said his department has asked the group to follow the instructions of the Indian Embassy in Sudan.

As of now, stranded people should stay wherever they are and not venture out. The MEA is seized of the matter and is working on it, Rajan said.

According to him, the stranded Hakki-Pikki people comprise both men and women.

"It is still a matter of investigation how they reached there but what we learnt is that they are selling some Ayurvedic medicines to the people," Rajan told PTI.

The KSDMA Commissioner further said these people carried the herbs and other medicines required for their treatment from India and sold the items there.

Being impoverished themselves, it is still a mystery how the Hakki-Pikkis travelled so far from India to a large continent across the expansive Indian Ocean, another officer said adding that once they return, these matters should be investigated.

The Hakki-Pikkis are known in Karnataka for their traditional medicines. The tribal group that has been living in deep jungles developed its own plant- and herb-based medical systems. There are people in Karnataka's cities who trust their medicines, the officer explained.

A semi-nomadic community, Hakki-Pikkis are the bird-catching communities who can speak Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam and their own dialect Vagribooli, which is said to be somewhat similar to Gujarati. It is also believed that their ancestors were from Gujarat. **-PTI**

Around 31 people from Hakki-Pikki tribe from Karnataka are stranded in Sudan where civil war has broken out

Fatty liver disease: An alarming concern

| Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Doctors in the city are concerned about the rising number of cases of fatty liver disease, particularly among non-alcoholics.

Dr Lavenya R Padmanaban, a consultant in pediatric gastroenterology at Rainbow Children's Hospital in Marathahalli, told Bangalore Mirror that fatty liver disease is one of the leading causes of liver failure in adults, and early diagnosis is advisable as the condition is reversible with treatment.

The pathological process can be triggered by alcohol consumption, an unhealthy lifestyle, obesity, chronic viral infections, and some metabolic conditions. In children, the condition is known as non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) because they are not exposed to alcohol. Childhood obesity, which is a global threat, is a common cause of NAFLD, in addition to other conditions, she said.

Fatty liver disease is a common condition caused by the accumulation of extra fat in the liver due to factors such as diabetes, obesity, excess alcohol intake, and overeating. If left untreated, it can progress to fibrosis and cirrhosis of the liver.

To maintain the health of the liver, one should follow these practices:

- Maintain a balanced and nutritious diet
- Maintain a healthy weight
- Avoid self-medicating and unnecessary medications
- Live a healthy lifestyle by avoiding alcohol and smoking
- Get timely vaccinations
- Most importantly, seek medical help early if you have concerns such as jaundice, unexplained tiredness, lethargy, nausea, or abdominal pain.

By 2025, obesity is expected to increase by 45 per cent in the developed world and 150 per cent in the developing world, while diabetes is projected to rise by 150 per cent in Asia by 2030.

"Each time you consume alcohol, your liver cells die. While the liver has a good capacity for regeneration, prolonged alcohol intake can lead to the formation of nodules and eventually cirrhosis of the liver. Drink responsibly and consult your doctor for advice," said Dr Naphene N, a consultant in HPB and transplant surgery at Aster RV Hospital.

The prevalence of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease is also expected to rise exponentially.

Dr Sanjeev Rohatgi, the lead consultant in liver transplant and HPB surgery at Manipal Hospital Whitefield said that while hepatitis B and C were once believed to be the primary causes of liver disease, fatty liver disease caused by both alcoholic and non-alcoholic steatohepatitis is becoming a major player.

He further added that alcohol consumption can lead to liver disease through the accumulation of toxic acetaldehyde.

The Roadies

1. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann waves to the crowd during the roadshow at Ron, in Gadag on Tuesday
2. People attend a roadshow in support of JD (S) candidate A Manjunath (unseen) after he filed his nomination from Magadi constituency
3. Minister of Major and Medium Irrigation Govind Karjol along with State Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai during a roadshow
4. Karnataka Congress president DK Shivakumar along with party leaders greet supporters during a roadshow at Pavagada, in Tumakuru

Plus or minus: Party arithmetic

Congress gains 2 Lingayat leaders, BJP says not much of a loss

As the Congress counts political dividends after two BJP leaders from the dominant Lingayat community joined it, ahead of May 10 Assembly polls in Karnataka, the ruling party has sought to down play the desertion and project their move as mere "betrayal". Lingayats, who constitute about 17 per cent of the state's population largely concentrated in the State's northern districts, form the strong vote base of the BJP.

The Congress has been making attempts to break the Lingayat vote bank of the BJP for sometime now, by trying to project that the party has ill-treated the community by sidelining its veteran leader and Lingayat strong man BS Yediyurappa, after using him for its advantage.

Now with senior leaders Jagadish Shettar (former CM) and Laxman Savadi (former Deputy CM) switching to its side, the Congress is planning to push this narrative further, hoping to create a perception against BJP in the minds of Lingayats.

Laxman Savadi and Jagadish Shettar joined the Congress recently

BJP's Lingayat leaders dismiss leaders quitting as act of betrayal; CM Bommai says Lingayats are aware voters

Several Congress leaders in the last couple of days have been trying to push this narrative, while also seeking to portray that the wave is in their favour, a party functionary said. State Congress President DK Shivakumar even claimed that 2-3 percent of Veershaiva-Lingayat votes are shifting in his party's favour after Shettar and Savadi joined it, and have given an open invitation to their supporters in the BJP to join the party.

"Our estimation is we would win 141 seats, after Jagadish Shettar and Savadi joining the party we will reach 150 seats (out of total 224). Because of their joining, 2-3 percent of Veershaiva-Lingayat votes is shifting, because their supporters and well-wishers are shifting to Congress," Shivakumar told reporters here today.

"I'm giving an open invitation to Shettar and Savadi's supporters in BJP to join Congress," he added.

Foreseeing that the Congress will use this opportunity to build a narrative that BJP is ill-treating Lingayat leaders, the saffron party on the very day Shettar resigned as MLA , fielded Yediyurappa, arguably the tallest and a mass leader from the community, to defend it. Yediyurappa had termed Shettar and Savadi as "betrayers", and listed out all key positions they were given by the BJP.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, a Lingayat himself on Tuesday in Bagalkote said, one or two Lingayat leaders from BJP defecting to other parties, ahead of elections, will have no impact, and expressed confidence that the BJP will win more seats than last time in this region, where leaders have quit. "In Karnataka politics, Lingayats are 'aware' voters, whenever they have taken a decision they have taken a right decision. The Congress is showing too much love towards Lingayats after the election is declared. Congress were the ones who tried to divide Lingayats," Bommai said.

He accused the Congress of indirectly opposing and obstructing reservation related decisions favouring Lingayats. – PTI

Independent candidate hands out deposit fee in one rupee coins

A young, independent candidate in Yadgir gave electoral officers backbreaking work by paying his deposit money of Rs 10,000 entirely in one rupee coins, which he had collected from voters across the constituency in poll-bound Karnataka, to contest the May 10 Assembly election. The deposit fee for each candidate in this year's election is Rs 10,000. The officers took two long hours to count the coins that were spread on the table at the office in Yadgir.

Yankappa, the independent candidate who filed his nomination papers from Yadgir constituency, reached the Tahsildar's office on Tuesday with a banner hung around his neck. The poster had the images of 12th century social reformer Basaveshwara, saint-poet of Karnataka Kanakadasa, Swami Vivekananda, Dr BR Ambedkar, and the preamble of the Constitution. Below the images, a message written in Kannada read: "Not just one rupee, with your one vote, you vote me one day, I will give you free om from poverty." The contestant said he travelled across the constituency by foot and collected the coins from the voters.

An arts graduate from Gulbarga University, he has total assets of Rs 60,000. – PTI

Pre-poll wrap: What is Karnataka up to?

No entry to murder accused Cong leader

A special court here on Tuesday rejected Congress leader Vinay Kulkarni's request to enter Dharwad, from where he is the party's candidate for the May 10 Assembly polls in Karnataka, over stipulations laid down by the Supreme Court barring his presence in the district. Kulkarni, an accused in the murder of BJP leader Yogesh Gowda in 2016, was granted bail by the apex court on the condition that he would not be allowed to enter Dharwad district.

The Additional City Civil and Session Court, Special Court for People's Representatives, had completed hearing on his plea to enter Dharwad on Monday, and announced its judgment today.

The counsel for the CBI had argued before Judge B Jayant Kumar against allowing Kulkarni entry into Dharwad citing that 90 witnesses in the murder case were residing in the city and the presence of the accused there would be detrimental to the case. Since he was an influential person, he may pressure the witnesses. The court was told that it was not possible to provide security to all the witnesses. – PTI

PSI scam accused files nomination

RD Patil, the kingpin of the Police Sub-Inspector recruitment scandal, is contesting the May 10 state polls as Samajwadi party candidate from Afzalpur Assembly constituency.

Patil, who is presently imprisoned, had come to file the nomination in a police vehicle and submitted his papers at the Tehsildar's office on Monday. He had submitted two nominations from Samajwadi party and another as an independent candidate.

Thirty-nine-year-old Patil has declared Rs 6.50 crore property to the Election Commission. In January, he had released a video announcing that he was ready to contest in the Assembly elections when he had disappeared. The seven-minute video had gone viral on social media. "If people want, I will become a candidate from Afjalpur constituency and contest elections," he stated in the video.

"I have been framed in the PSI recruitment scandal. The officers have fixed me following the political pressure. The conspiracy has been hatched by a few who do not want me or my brother to grow politically," Patil explained. – IANS

Sudeep to begin campaigning for BJP

Kannada superstar Kichcha Sudeep will begin campaigning for the BJP on Tuesday from Bagalkot district, according to party sources. The sources confirmed that the actor will accompany Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and take part in a road show organised during the filing of nominations for state ministers Govind Karjol and Murugesh Nirani.

Bommai and Sudeep have already arrived in the district on board special chopper. – IANS

HEALTH TIP: Constipation is often caused by not eating enough fibre or drinking enough water

Raisins are rich in vitamin C which helps with collagen production and keeps gums healthy

OASIS OF CALM

How plants can change your state of mind

Plants look so different from animals, that it's easy for many people to think of them as alien and separate from us. Most people appreciate how pretty flowers and trees look and know photosynthesis is essential to life. But our mental and physical connection to plantlife runs deeper than you might expect.

The scientific evidence that plants play a fundamental role in shaping our mental state and decreasing the risk of mental and physical illnesses is mounting.

They can reduce depression, anxiety and mood disorder symptoms in humans by reducing levels of the stress hormone cortisol which can lower heart rate and promote a feelgood state of mind.

Several studies have shown horticulture therapy may help some people manage their PTSD symptoms and improve their quality of life once more.

They can even increase your creativity through stimulating the brain with their vibrant, natural colours.

A growing sense of wellbeing

Even the little potplant on your desk may have a more potent effect on you than you might realise. The houseplants you bought to brighten up your home or workplace may actually be helping you to think more clearly. Studies have shown that surrounding yourself by plants could improve your concentration by up to 20% and increase your ability to recall information by 15-20%. Plants do this by reducing CO2 concentration and improving air quality.

According to UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidelines, CO2 concentration should not exceed 1,000 parts per million (ppm) in offices, as at this level it can causes headaches, fatigue and dizziness.

It can also lead to poorer decision-making. Research has shown that in some cases house plants can decrease carbon dioxide concentration from 2,000 ppm to about 480 ppm in less than one hour indoors.

Popular house plants that efficiently remove carbon dioxide include the blue star fern (Phlebodium aureum), weeping figs (Ficus benjamina), spider plants (Chlorophytum comosum) and Anthurium species (such as the flamingo flower).

Some plants, of course, can also alter our body chemistry – just think of the many species used as medicinal or recreational drugs. It is ironic that some people think of plants as little more than nice-looking greens when humans have been using them to explore different states of consciousness, relieve pain and to relax for tens of thousands of years.

Horti-culture

Plants have been central to human society from our very beginning, but the way we use and connect with plants has changed over generations and throughout civilisations. From being reliant on plants for food and medicine during the palaeolithic era (up to 11,000 years ago), modern society has in many ways lost its appreciation and awareness of plants.

The World Bank has estimated that by the year 2050, seven out of ten people will be living in cities and access to plants in their natural environment will become more challenging. We have become more disconnected from nature. But despite all the options for comfort and leisure 21st century technology offers us, we can't quite seem to stay away.

Humans have "biophilia", which means we are wired to seek connection with nature and plants. Plants increase happiness hormones such as endorphins in humans. They are not only intertwined with the fate of the human species but deeply rooted in who we are as individuals. The shape, colour, smell, feel and taste of plants can uplift us when we interact with them in the moment and blossom in our memories.

From the velvety feel of flower petals against your fingertips, to the delicious scent of essential oils they release to attract pollinators, to the irresistibly mellow taste of chocolate, plants have been tantalising our senses throughout human history.

We all have different memories and experiences that make us connect with plants. For example, the plant that makes me most happy and invokes in me a deep feeling of love is Crocus sativus, as I named my first daughter after it (Saffron).

During the covid pandemic plant sales in Britain increased by over 30%, as people rediscovered the importance of plants for their mental wellbeing. In 2021 the UK spent over £7.6 billion on plants, which is £1-2 billion higher compared to the two previous years.

Plants aren't a luxury. They are part of who we are. It is not surprising to find that the word "plant" translates in many native languages to "those who take care of us".

(By Sven Batke, Edge Hill University, The Conversation)

"Surrounding yourself by plants could improve your concentration by up to 20%; increase ability to recall info by 15-20%

All problems solved

Dear Coleen

I got married just after Christmas after being several years together and I've recently found out I'm pregnant with our first child. My problem is, pretty much as soon as we arrived back from our honeymoon we've been arguing non-stop.
It's really strange because our relationship was so good before we got married and neither of us had any doubts. It was the obvious next step, so I don't know what's happened to change things. My husband seems to be short tempered and sarcastic all the time and during a huge row a few days ago, he even said we were mad to be having a baby right now when all we do is argue, which really hurt me.
I know his job is stressful, but it was stressful before we married. I'm working too, and not feeling the best now that morning sickness has kicked in. Your advice would be very welcome.

COLEEN SAYS

Change can be unsettling and you've had two major life events in just a few months – your wedding and now a pregnancy. So, while it's all very exciting, your lives are going to change even more when the baby comes along and, perhaps, unconsciously, this is what's worrying you both. Things just got real!

Chuck in work stress and pregnancy hormones and the anxiety can explode.

You need to come back together and the only way to do that is to talk honestly about all the stuff that's worrying you.

There might be some things your husband is stressing over that you don't know anything about. But when you say these things out loud and confront them, they're not as scary.

All marriages go through rocky times, so the important thing is to keep talking and listening to each other instead of retreating to your corners.

— Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

MIRRORLIGHTS

Moody much? Read on...

Everybody experiences occasional restlessness, agitation, or moodiness. Nonetheless, some people take advantage of anxiousness, a more intense form of unease that results in less concentration.

Agitation can be exceedingly painful and upsetting. It also interferes with social connections and professional performance, and in some cases, it raises the likelihood that someone would damage himself or others.

"People who suffer from mood problems may be more likely to become agitated. Bipolar illness and depression are examples of mood disorders that can be treated medically and cause changes in cognition, energy, and behaviour. Anyone can be affected by them, regardless of age, ethnicity, or social standing," says Kanchan Rai, an emotional and mental well-being coach.

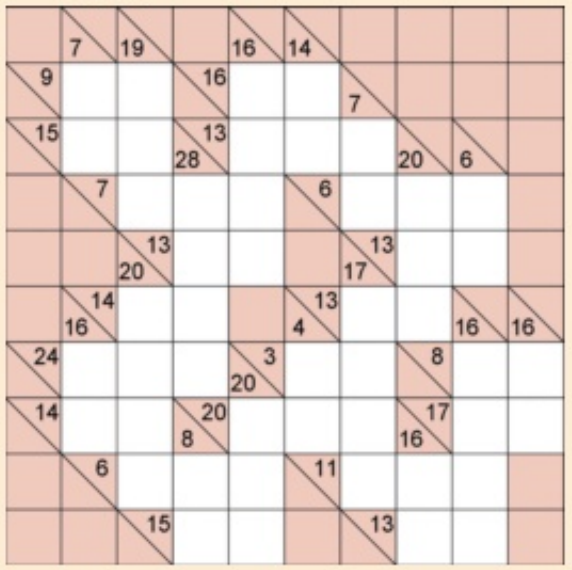
"A period of agitation is characterised by insignificant motions, such as trembling hands. Additional signs include hostility, a lack of self-control, stress, and aggressive or disruptive behaviour. Even though it frequently coexists with stress, clinicians typically designate the term 'moodiness' to identify serious mental activity that stems from emotional discomfort. These outward habits act as an expression of the person's emotions. Agitation is a sign of a medical ailment, such as a mood disorder or feeling nervous. When a person's treatment for depression or bipolar disorder isn't functioning as effectively as it should, they frequently become agitated. It can also be brought on by traumatic or extremely stressful circumstances. A person may at first come across as caustic. If the stress intensifies, they may begin to pace, lash out vocally, clench their fists, or even act in a threatening or confrontational manner."

-IANS

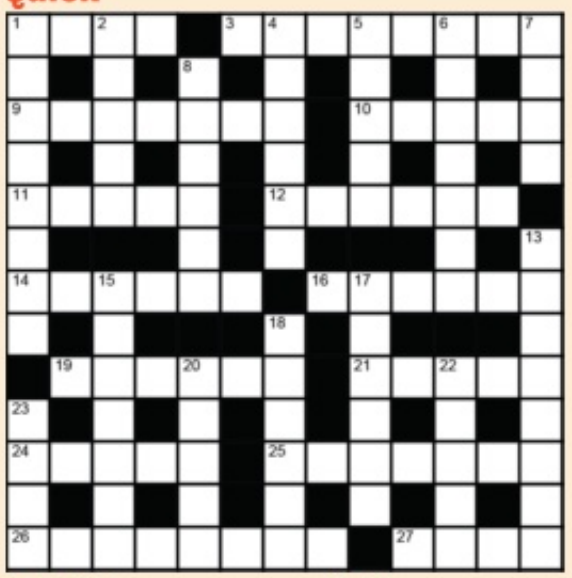
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Policemen (4)
3 Competitions (8)
9 Popular peyote potion (7)
10 Rest on the knees (5)
11 Helps in a heist (5)
12 Truthful (6)
14 Not winning (6)
16 A quick look (6)
19 Capital of Manipur (6)
21 Satan (5)
24 Mistake (5)
25 Peepholes; metal rings for lining small holes? (7)
26 Madness (8)
27 Functions (4)

DOWN

1 Shouts of derision (8)
2 Chagrin (5)
4 Spinach – "O reach" anagram? (6)
5 Keepsake (5)
6 Treads underfoot? (5,2)
7 Exchange for money (4)
8 Hollywood star Mel ___ (6)
13 Hermits; they shun company (8)
15 This cathedral in Bangalore is over 200 years old (2,5)
17 Paying guest? (6)
18 First born (6)
20 Great lake of N America (5)
22 Prospects, beholds or discerns (5)
23 Military cap (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: R EQUALS H

S NSF GD JRA DQN PY RGD SO-JGPFD, PY URSJ RA RSD LPFA, PY URSJ RA OSF LP, FPJRGFM ACDA.

Linemaro

You are fun to be with; I love the way you make me laugh

Mindchow

No person is your friend who demands your silence, or denies your right to grow

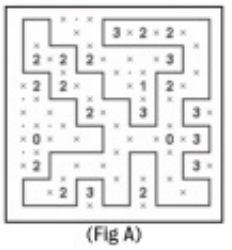
Joke of the day

There's two buns in an oven. The first bun says, "sure is hot in here". Second bun replies, "Hot damn! A talking bun!"

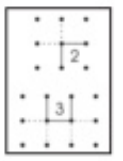
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

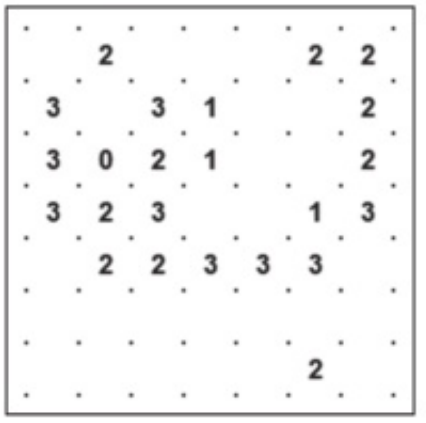


(Fig B) Not Allowed

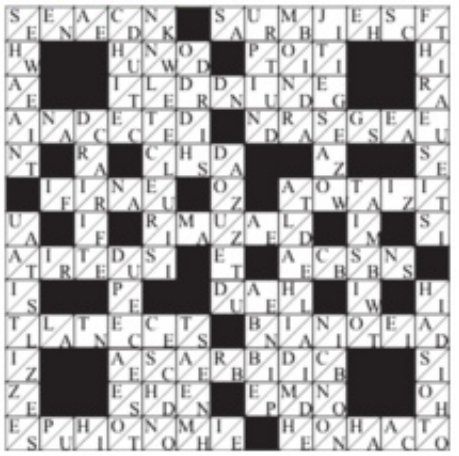
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



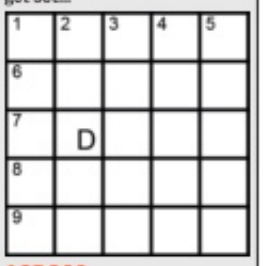
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

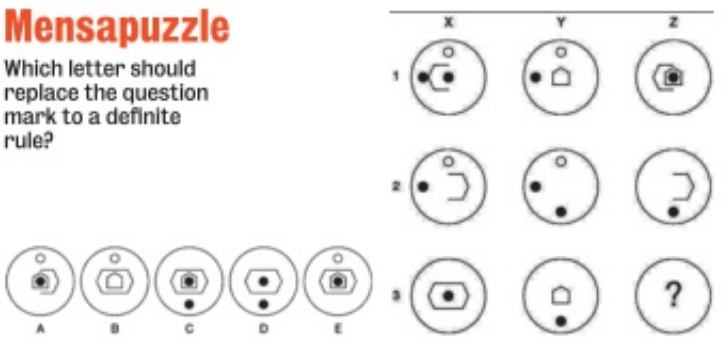
1 Br CAT; 6 To err;
7 Or duo; 8 Loire;
9 Small

DOWN

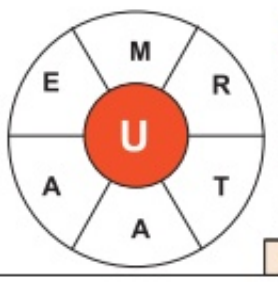
1 Mr Boo; 2 Aired;
3 To all; 4 Lucre;
5 R sort

Mensapuzzle

Which letter should replace the question mark to a definite rule?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 07 Outstanding

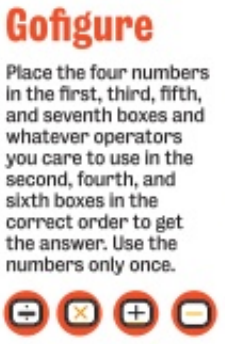
SudokuChallenge

	6		4	2	9		1	
9	4						5	6
			7		6			
		7	8		5	2		
		1				6		
		8	2		3	1		
			5		2			
2	1						7	8
	3		1	7	8		2	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 32
7 8 8 9

Medium = 7
3 4 4 4

Hard = 6
2 7 7 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

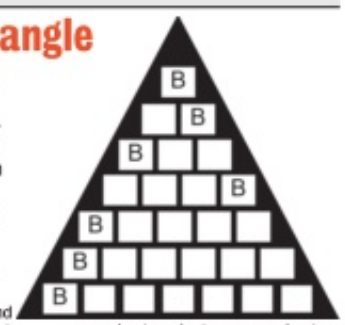
Differences: 1. Paper is longer. 2. Paper on desk is missing. 3. Sleeve is shorter. 4. Woman's hair is different. 5. Newspaper has an extra page. 6. Man has less hair.

Riddler

My first, a surface by which one's I.D. is discerned
My second's often measured in terms of dollars earned
My whole may have an underlying truth to be learned
What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 Second letter
2 Rock group _ 40
3 School vehicle
4 Yarn irregularity
5 Rhythm and _ ?
6 Measure of grain
7 Turned red in embarrassment



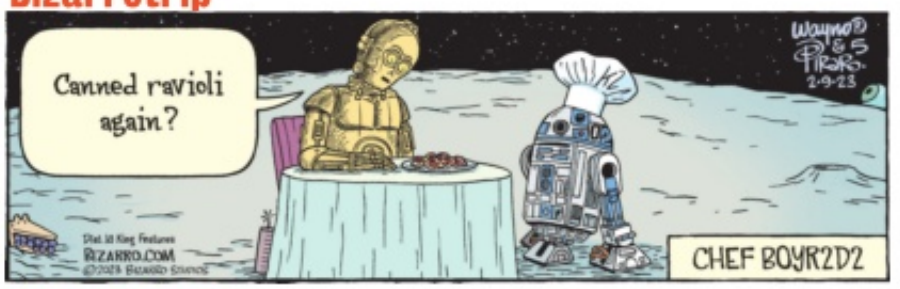
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GONNA HAVE A SNOW DAY TOMORROW!
A WINTER STORM ALERT HAS BEEN ISSUED FOR OUR AREA...
ACCORDING TO THE 'NATURAL' WEATHER SERVICE!

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, there may be peace in your mind. Your earnings may boost your financial health. You may enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, which may enhance harmony in your family life. Singles may be likely to find a suitable match. You may expect to get ample opportunities at work, and you may notice some progress in your life.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may be able to implement your plans with the help of your strong network at work. You may be likely to get a big order with the help of your hard work. There may be good understanding between you and your spouse, which may increase harmony in your domestic life. Your boss may appreciate your hard work.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you are blessed by the moon. The messy situation from the last few days is under control. You may initiate your postponed works. With blessings, you may get a reward for your hard work. There are some gains in your business which may boost your financial health. You may expect some unexpected opportunities, which may increase your business or work. You may also plan for an overseas trip.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may not feel well, as you might have health issues, which may affect your profession and domestic life. You may be upset due to your spouse's health issues. Your patience may be tested many times. You are advised not to make investments in new business projects, otherwise, you may face losses. Students are advised to avoid fantasy and work hard in their studies.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon. You may be able to take quick decisions on the professional front. You may expect to get new opportunities in terms of business, which may boost your confidence level. You are likely to start some new innovation with the help of your business partner, which may increase your business in the near future.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you are blessed by a positive moon. You may feel healthy, and chronic health issues may be cured now. Your kids' health may be okay now. The money that was stuck somewhere may likely be recovered now. You may also repay your debt.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon. This may give you peace of mind. You may become decisive, so you may grab an opportunity without a second thought. Past karma may help you sustain in any situation and show you the right path. Lovebirds may enjoy happy moments. Job aspirants may likely get a suitable job with the help of friends.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be dull. Detachment from responsibilities may make you upset. You may not be able to fulfill your commitments, which may affect your prestige. You may be a victim of arrogance. It may affect both your professional and domestic life. You may internally feel a lack of confidence, which may stop you from doing something creative at work.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may be enthusiastic. Your focus towards your goals may be very good. You may easily achieve your target. You are likely to go for short work-related trips, which may give you benefits in the near future. Your subordinate staff may help you to complete the important project. Disputes with your siblings may be raised.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon. You will plan to invest more capital into family business, which may increase your family business in the near future. You may expect to get some rewards on behalf of your social services. You may expect to hear some good news in your family, which may create a joyful environment in the family. You may also enjoy some delicious food.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may feel happy. Your health is also good, which may give you inner strength and self-confidence. Your subconscious mind may not allow you to manipulate the messy task. Your social prestige may likely be increased. With the help of your good karma, destiny may help you to start some innovative task.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be unhappy and disappointed. You are advised to control your arrogance, otherwise, you may face some losses due to your harsh speaking while you are talking with anyone. You are advised to avoid long trips and rush driving. You should keep yourself away from bay areas or oceans.

KIDZONE

R Tejas, 12 Years, Indiranagar Cambridge School

Rituparna, 14 Years, MEC Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
6 × 2.4/3 + 2–1 =
6 × 16/3 + 1/2 =
6 × 16/3 × 2/1 =
(6 × 16 × 2)/3 =
(96 × 2)/3 =
192/3 = 64

BULL'S EYE
AMATEUR, aura, mature, mute, trauma, true, urea

FAST FIVE

B	R	A	C	T
O	I	L	E	R
O	D	O	U	R
R	E	T	R	O
B	R	A	C	T

STRIKE OUT

E	P	I	T	O	M	E	■	E	N	A	C	T	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
I	■	A	C	E	R	B	I	C	■	I	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
L	A	N	C	E	S	■	B	A	I	T	■	D	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
I	■	P	■	D	A	L	■	I	■	I	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
T	I	I	U	S	■	E	■	B	B	S	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
U	■	F	■	R	A	Z	E	D	■	N	■	S	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
F	I	N	E	■	O	■	A	W	A	I	T	■	■	■
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N	■	K	■	L	S	D	■	A	■	S	■	■	■	■
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I	N	D	E	E	D	■	N	A	S	A	U	■	■	■
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S	N	A	C	K	■	S	U	B	J	E	C	T	■	■

QUICK

C	O	P	S	■	C	O	N	T	E	S	T	S	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
A	■	I	■	G	■	R	■	O	■	T	■	E	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
T	E	O	U	■	I	■	A	■	K	■	E	■	■	■
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A	■	B	E	T	■	S	■	H	■	N	E	S	T	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
C	■	U	■	B	■	C	■	E	■	P	■	L	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
A	B	E	T	S	■	H	O	N	E	S	T	■	■	■
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■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
S	N	A	C	K	■	S	U	B	J	E	C	T	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
C

RIDDLER
Face value

QUOTE UNCODE
A man is the sum of his actions, of what he has done, of what he can do, nothing else.

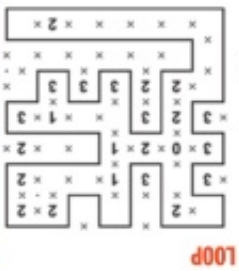
SUDOKU

7	6	5	4	2	9	8	1	3
9	4	2	3	8	1	7	5	6
1	8	3	7	5	6	9	4	2
6	9	7	8	1	5	2	3	4
3	2	1	9	4	7	6	8	5
4	5	8	2	6	3	1	9	7
8	7	4	5	9	2	3	6	1
2	1	9	6	3	4	5	7	8
5	3	6	1	7	8	4	2	9

ALPHA TRIANGLE
8, UB, Bus, Slub, Blues, Bushel, Blushed.

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 + 7 + 9 + 8 = 32
Medium
3 + 4 – 4 + 4 = 7
Hard
4 + 2 – 7 + 7 = 6

LOOP



KAKURO

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Mum's the word

Actor Ileana D'Cruz on Tuesday announced that she will soon welcome her first child. The actor shared the news in an Instagram post, but did not reveal her partner's name

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Twists and turns

Software engineer Vasantha Kumar S, is making arrangements for the release of his maiden directorial Nodada Putagalu. The film's tagline is – Life is full of twists and turns, you have to wait for your turn. Nodada Putagalu is scheduled for release on Friday.

"I am very happy to release my first movie as a director. I wrote the script based on news that appeared in newspapers. I do not want to reveal the plot, but it revolves around four generations of a family," said Vasantha Kumar.

Prior to this, Vasantha Kumar has worked as an associate for Kudlu Ramakrishna for the movie Yaksha in which Yogi played the lead. "I did a diploma in direction and worked under a few directors. I also bankrolled this movie under the Sweet and Salt banner. It was shot in and around Bengaluru for over 40 days," he said.

Recently, Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar released the film's trailer and appreciated the director and wished the best to the cast and crew. Veteran actor Suchendra Prasad is the narrator of the trailer.

Preetham Makkihalli and Kavya Ramesh are the lead pair. The cast includes Vasu, Vilas Kulkarni, Gautam G, Ashok Rao, PB Raju Naik, Shanthi S Gowda, Showbhagya and others.

New look

Here is good news for Mohanlal fans in Karnataka. Their favourite hero will be in action on the silver screen mouthing dialogues in Kannada. Mohanlal's latest movie Malaikottai Vaaliban is scheduled to release not only in Malayalam but also in Kannada, Tamil, Telugu and Hindi.

On the auspicious occasion of Vishu, the team released the first look of the movie.

This film showcases Mohanlal in a new look. Lijo, known for handling the megaphone for movies such as City of God, Jallikattu, and Angamaly Diaries, is helming the movie. It is said the movie is Mohanlal's first film with director Lijo. The movie is being bankrolled by Shibu Baby John under the banner of John & Mary Creative, Century and Maxlab. The shooting of the film, which started on January 18 in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, is still going on.

Manu Neelakandan is working behind the camera while editing is done by Deepu Joseph. Mohanlal is also acting in Rajanikant's movie Jailer in which Dr Shivarajkumar also plays a key role. Mohanlal played a key role in Puneeth Rajkumar-starred Kannada movie Mythri that released in 2015.

Behind every successful woman

... PC credits 'incredible' men in her life and speaks about some insecure ones too

Actor Priyanka Chopra's journey has been an inspiration for millions of people across the globe. From winning the coveted title of Miss World at the age of 18 to putting India on the global map with her acting talent, Priyanka is undoubtedly a name synonymous with success.

She is now all set to headline the Russo Brothers' international series 'Citadel'. With 'Citadel', Priyanka has achieved pay parity for the first time in her career of 22 years.

Speaking to media, Priyanka reflected on the issue of pay parity between men and women. She also discussed how the insecurity of men plays a role in pay inequality.

"I have some incredible men in my life who are not insecure of my success but I also have men in my life who are very insecure of my success..So I think that men have enjoyed the freedom and the pride of being the bread winners or the leaders of the family..it's threatening to their territory when a woman does that or if a woman is more successful or a man is staying at home and woman is going out to work..."–ANI

Just married

After years of being in a hush-hush relationship, Mahie Gill confirmed on Tuesday that she is married to her actor-entrepreneur beau Ravi Kesar.

The two actors, who shared screen space in the 2019 series 'Fixerr' tied the knot in secret, according to a report on an entertainment portal. The actress is currently based in Goa, where she lives with her husband and daughter, Veronica.

Mahie and Ravi have reportedly been in a relationship for over a decade. The actress revealed her relationship status when she said that she was married to Ravi.

Gill has been doing her bit to keep her private life out of the media glare. The actress even waited a couple of years before she could post her daughter's photos online, citing "personal reasons". The actress even revealed that there were a lot of things that happened in her private life that has never come out in public. — ETimes

Back together?

Have Shawn Mendes and Camila Cabello mended their ways? This question is storming the mind of the netizens since the duo was captured spending time with each other while attending Coachella in Indio, California, on Friday.

Several videos from the venue surfaced online. In the seconds-long clip, Mendes, and Cabello, can be seen holding a drink in their hands while engaging in conversation. US-based media company People reported, in another video, shared online by a Mendes fan account, the duo can be seen watching a performance together and sharing a kiss.

Mendes and Cabello were friends for several years before they started dating in July 2019.

They were photographed sharing PDA moments throughout that summer, and they made their first major public appearance as a couple that August at the MTV Video Music Awards, where they performed their duet "Senorita."

Samantha's note

Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who was recently seen in the film 'Shaakuntalam', shared a cryptic post on her social media on Tuesday.

The film was hugely anticipated by the fans of the actress but, it failed to deliver and entertain the audience. After the film tanked, a Telugu film producer named Chittibabu has criticised Samantha saying that her career is 'finished'. He told a YouTube channel that the days of stardom are over for the actress and she should do whatever offers she gets from now on.

But it seems Samantha is unfazed by the failure of her highly anticipated film as she took to her Instagram on Tuesday to share a picture of herself with a caption in Sanskrit quoted from Bhagavad Gita -- the foundational text of Hinduism. She seemed to have addressed the underwhelming response to the film calling that she can only do her duty, and can't control the outcome.

She wrote, "Karmanye vadhika raste Ma phaleshu kadachana Ma karma phala he tur bhuh Ma te sangotsva karmani (You can only do your karma, and can't be the authority of it. One should not perform karma with the desire for reward)."

Samantha will be next seen in upcoming Telugu romantic drama 'Kushi', in which she will share the screen with Vijay Deverakonda. –IANS